

EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 22, 2005 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING****1. Call to Order**

The fourth School Committee meeting for March was held on Tuesday, March 22, 2005 in the Hanaford School gymnasium. The meeting was called to order by Chair Vincent Bradley at 7:05 p.m. Other members present were: Vice-Chair Paul Martin, Steve Gregson, Dr. Al Ross, Sue Cienki, William Day and Merrill Friedemann, as well as Superintendent Michael Jolin, Assistant Superintendent Helen O'Hara. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Public Comments

Mr. Roger Ferland, President of EGEA, told the School Committee that the union negotiators will be available at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday in the high school library,

Mrs. Judi Cavanaugh, parent, teacher and taxpayer, stated that it is important to settle the contract. She noted that the School Committee should show the people of East Greenwich that they have earned their votes.

Mrs. JoAnne Leach, parent, teacher and taxpayer, stated that the membership of the EGEA stands behind their negotiating team and

would like a fair contract, because academic excellence could be in jeopardy if negotiations do not begin in earnest.

4. Discuss \$6 million warrant for East Greenwich High School Labs and Classrooms

Dr. Jolin stated that the state of the high school science labs is antiquated and in need of replacement. He stated that a new security entrance was included in the price. Dr. Jolin stated that 33% of the projects are completed. Mrs. Friedemann wants the new warrant project put off for a few months until a proposal is made with the teachers. She feels that public input is important. A further discussion was held on the commitment to rehab Cole versus rehabbing the high school. Mr. Gregson feels that taxpayers should know the cost of all the projects and how it will impact the town financially. He stated that the building facilities committee needs to be in place first. Dr. Ross feels that people in east Greenwich are not willing to spend money for a new high school. Mr. Bradley sees the urgency in rehabbing the high school labs now. Mr. McLaren stated that besides space, there is a safety issue. Mr. Ernie DeSaia stated that the high school science labs are not in that bad a shape, code wise, and they are working on ventilation now.

Mr. Joseph Cardello stated that if the School Committee came to the taxpayers now for another \$6 million warrant, they would be asked where they stand now with the current warrant projects. Mr. Cardello also asked the School Committee to make sure that all fields are taken care of as one group. He added that a field study should be

done. Mr. Day stated that he met once on this issue and will have a few more meetings. Town Manager Sequino stated that if the school department is going to seek bond funds from the town, they shouldn't go to the financial town meeting, but should do it through legislation.

Mrs. Teddy Davis, Health and Physical Education Department Chair, feels that a long term and short term building and maintenance plan is needed, and the School Committee should pick a committee and organize, deputize and prioritize.

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5. Facilities Committee Charge

A recommendation was made to have five people on the facilities committee who have professional expertise and commitment. Mr. Gregson stated that a generic charge for all subcommittees to recommend and advise on issues the school Committee deems appropriate. Mrs. Friedemann stated that the building committee does the research and the School Committee makes decisions. Mr. DeSaia stated that it should be kept simple. He feels that a master plan is needed and people are needed to dig into those areas. Dr. Ross stated that it way too involved and he needs more time to read and understand the charge. He made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to table this facilities committee charge until the April 5 meeting. The motion to table passed unanimously.

6. Construction Management Upgrade of Responsibilities and Authority

Mrs. Friedemann stated that this item needs to be put into Executive Session because of a letter from Attorney Visconti. Mrs. Friedemann made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to table this item until the April 5 Executive Session.

7. Advisory Committee on East Greenwich High School Principal Replacement

Dr. Jolin stated that there needs to be a process and have the school department move forward. Mrs. Cienki believes that the advertisement should be done as soon as possible. School Committee members and residents had many comments on the composition of the committee. Mr. Day made a motion to advertise the position first and then come back with a draft on April 5, 2005. Mrs. Friedemann seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

8. Budget – Considerations of Christine Mattos' comments

Mrs. Crawford provided details to Mrs. Mattos on what caused the budget discrepancies. She noted that she will need to increase the budget because of several factors. Mrs. Crawford stated that she could not reconcile all of Mrs. Mattos' numbers because she did not have detail from Mrs. Mattos. Mrs. Mattos still feels the numbers in the salary and benefits are overstated. Mrs. Friedemann responded that the numbers should not be off by so much, and feels that a forensic audit may be needed on payroll and benefits. She wants to

know what the numbers are and why they are not absolute.

9. Address Request by Summer's End Committee to Use Eldredge Field for a Concert

It was noted that plywood would be put down on the field for trucks to drive over since there is a sprinkler system at Eldredge field. Mr. Day made a motion to approve this request and have the school department listed as an additional insured in case there is any damage to the field. The motion was seconded by Dr. Ross and was unanimous.

Public Comments

Mrs. Mattos stated that there are 13,000 residents in town, 4500 households, and 90 of 8000 registered voters are school department employees. She feels that the School Committee should consider all information available when they negotiate.

Executive Session

On a motion made by Dr. Ross and seconded by Mr. Gregson, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 9:15 p.m. under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (1) and (2) negotiations for teachers and paraprofessionals, Blue Cross and West Bay Collaborative Considerations.